

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A charging system for charging a fee generated by using an information provision system comprising: a communication network including a monitoring apparatus for monitoring a state of using the communication network; a terminal apparatus for performing communication via the communication network; an administrator's apparatus belonging to an administrator who administrates a state of using communication of the terminal apparatus; and an information provision apparatus for providing the terminal apparatus with information via the communication network; said charging system comprising:

a first calculation device for calculating a first fee generated by using said information provision system;

a charging processing device for performing processing for charging the administrator the first fee;

a payment acceptance device for performing processing for the administrator to pay a second fee which is set to a fixed amount in advance by a user of said terminal apparatus; and

a control device for controlling generation of the first fee according to charging conditions of said communication network at the time when the information provision system is used.

2. The charging system according to claim 1,

in a case where said information provision apparatus performs the communication for transmission of information to said terminal apparatus via said communication network, and

5        said control device prohibits transmitting the information to said terminal apparatus in the case in which an amount of the information requested by said terminal apparatus to be transmitted is larger than a reference amount of information set in advance.

3.     The charging system according to claim 1,

10        in a case where said information provision apparatus performs the communication for transmission of information to said terminal apparatus via said communication network, and

      said control device cuts down on transmitting the information to said terminal apparatus in the case in which an amount of the  
15    information requested by said terminal apparatus to be transmitted is larger than a reference amount of information set in advance.

4.     The charging system according to claim 2,

      wherein said control device uses one of an accumulated  
20    amount and an individual amount of the information requested by said terminal apparatus to be transmitted for the reference amount of information.

5.     The charging system according to claim 2,

wherein said charging processing device performs processing for charging according to a charging conditions which are determined according to a line usage rate as against all lines in said communication network, and

5        said control device controls generation of the first rate by differentiating the reference amount of information in a first time frame in which the line usage rate is larger than a reference line usage rate set in advance and a second time frame in which the line usage rate is smaller than the reference line usage rate.

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6.     The charging system according to claim 5,  
      wherein said control device comprises:

      a first comparison device for comparing, in the first time frame,  
an amount of the information requested by said terminal apparatus  
15 to be transmitted and a first reference amount of information set in  
advance; and

      a first prohibition device for prohibiting transmitting the  
information when the amount of the information requested by said  
terminal apparatus to be transmitted exceeds the first reference  
20 amount of information.

7.     The charging system according to claim 5,  
      wherein the control device comprises:

a reservation device for making a reservation such that actual transmission is performed in the second time frame for the information requested by said terminal apparatus to be transmitted; and

5        an execution device for executing transmission of the information in the second time frame based upon contents reserved by the reservation device.

8.     The charging system according to claim 6,  
10        wherein the control device comprises:

      a second comparison device for comparing, in the second time frame, a second reference amount of information, which is set larger than the first reference amount of information in advance, and an amount of the information requested by said terminal apparatus to  
15        be transmitted; and

      a second prohibition device for prohibiting transmitting the information when the amount of the information requested by said terminal apparatus to be transmitted exceeds the second reference amount of information.

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9.     The charging system according to claim 7,

      wherein said control device further comprises selection device which is used for deciding whether or not to adopt said reservation device.

10. The charging system according to claim 2,  
wherein said information provision apparatus comprises:  
an encryption device for encrypting the information to be  
5 transmitted to said terminal apparatus; and  
a decryption information transmission device for transmitting  
decryption information, which makes it possible to decrypt the  
encrypted information in said terminal apparatus, to said terminal  
apparatus.
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11. The charging system according to claim 2,  
wherein the administrator's apparatus comprises:  
a relay device for relaying communication between said  
information provision apparatus and the monitoring apparatus;  
15 a second calculation device for calculating an amount of  
transmitted information which has been transmitted to said terminal  
apparatus; and  
a storage device for storing the calculated amount of the  
information.
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12. The charging system according to claim 1, wherein at least one  
of said communication network including the monitoring apparatus,  
said terminal apparatus, said administrator's apparatus, and said  
information provision apparatus provide at least one of said first

calculation device, said charging processing device, said payment acceptance device, and said control device.

13. A monitoring apparatus included in a charging system for  
5 charging a fee generated by using an information provision system  
comprising: a communication network including the monitoring  
apparatus for monitoring a state of using the communication  
network; a terminal apparatus for performing communication via the  
communication network; an administrator's apparatus belonging to  
10 an administrator who administrates a state of using communication  
of the terminal apparatus; and an information provision apparatus  
for providing the terminal apparatus with information via the  
communication network; said monitoring apparatus comprising:

a first calculation device for calculating a first fee generated by  
15 using said information provision system;

a charging processing device for performing processing for  
charging the administrator the first fee.

14. A terminal apparatus included in a charging system for  
20 charging a fee generated by using an information provision system  
comprising: a communication network including a monitoring  
apparatus for monitoring a state of using the communication  
network; the terminal apparatus for performing communication via  
the communication network; an administrator's apparatus belonging

to an administrator who administrates a state of using communication of the terminal apparatus; and an information provision apparatus for providing the terminal apparatus with information via the communication network; said terminal  
5 apparatus comprising:

a control device for controlling generation of the first fee according to charging conditions of said communication network at the time when the information provision system is used.

10 15. An administrator's apparatus included in a charging system for charging a fee generated by using an information provision system comprising: a communication network including a monitoring apparatus for monitoring a state of using the communication network; a terminal apparatus for performing communication via the  
15 communication network; the administrator's apparatus belonging to an administrator who administrates a state of using communication of the terminal apparatus; and an information provision apparatus for providing the terminal apparatus with information via the communication network; said administrator's apparatus  
20 comprising:

a payment acceptance device for performing processing for the administrator to pay a second fee which is set to a fixed amount in advance by a user of said terminal apparatus; and

a relay device for relaying communication between said information provision apparatus and the monitoring apparatus;

a second calculation device for calculating an amount of transmitted information which has been transmitted to said terminal apparatus; and

a storage device for storing the calculated amount of the information.

16. An information provision apparatus included in a charging system for charging a fee generated by using an information provision system comprising: a communication network including a monitoring apparatus for monitoring a state of using the communication network; a terminal apparatus for performing communication via the communication network; an administrator's apparatus belonging to an administrator who administrates a state of using communication of the terminal apparatus; and the information provision apparatus for providing the terminal apparatus with information via the communication network; said information provision apparatus comprising:

an information transmission device for transmitting information in response to a request from the terminal apparatus;

an encryption device for encrypting the information to be transmitted to said terminal apparatus; and



a decryption information transmission device for transmitting decryption information, which makes it possible to decrypt the encrypted information in said terminal apparatus, to said terminal apparatus.

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17. A charging method for charging a fee generated by using an information provision system comprising: a communication network including a monitoring apparatus for monitoring a state of using the communication network; a terminal apparatus for performing  
10 communication via the communication network; an administrator's apparatus belonging to an administrator who administrates a state of using communication of the terminal apparatus; and an information provision apparatus for providing the terminal apparatus with information via the communication network; said charging method  
15 comprising:

a first calculation process of calculating a first fee generated by using said information provision system;

a charging processing process of performing processing for charging the administrator the first fee;

20 a payment acceptance process of performing processing for the administrator to pay a second fee which is set to a fixed amount in advance by a user of said terminal apparatus; and

a control process of controlling generation of the first fee according to charging conditions of said communication network at the time when the information provision system is used.

5 18. A charging control data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing a sequence of instructions that causes a computer, the computer included in a charging system for charging a fee generated by using an information provision system comprising: a communication network including a monitoring apparatus for  
10 monitoring a state of using the communication network; a terminal apparatus for performing communication via the communication network; an administrator's apparatus belonging to an administrator who administrates a state of using communication of the terminal apparatus; and an information provision apparatus for providing the  
15 terminal apparatus with information via the communication network; said charging control data signal causing the computer to function as:

a first calculation device for calculating a first fee generated by using said information provision system;

20 a charging processing device for performing processing for charging the administrator the first fee;

a payment acceptance device for performing processing for the administrator to pay a second fee which is set to a fixed amount in advance by a user of said terminal apparatus; and

a control device for controlling generation of the first fee according to charging conditions of said communication network at the time when the information provision system is used.

5 19. A data-recording medium having recorded therein a charging control program so as to be readable by a computer, the computer included in a charging system for charging a fee generated by using an information provision system comprising: a communication network including a monitoring apparatus for monitoring a state of  
10 using the communication network; a terminal apparatus for performing communication via the communication network; an administrator's apparatus belonging to an administrator who administrates a state of using communication of the terminal apparatus; and an information provision apparatus for providing the  
15 terminal apparatus with information via the communication network; said charging control program causing the computer to function as:

a first calculation device for calculating a first fee generated by using said information provision system;

a charging processing device for performing processing for  
20 charging the administrator the first fee;

a payment acceptance device for performing processing for the administrator to pay a second fee which is set to a fixed amount in advance by a user of said terminal apparatus; and

a control device for controlling generation of the first fee according to charging conditions of said communication network at the time when the information provision system is used.